

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 CU-04 DRC-01 /099 W

----- 093398

R 190836Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2546

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 1162

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SCENE

1. OPPOSITION NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) SOURCE FEB 19 TOLD EMBOFF THAT "20 OR 30" CIA AGENTS HAD OCCUPIED NDP HEADQUARTERS TO PREVENT DISTRIBUTION OF PARTY NEWSPAPER WHICH WAS PRINTED FEB 18. SOURCE ANTICIPATED NEWSPAPER WOULD BE CONFISCATED. HE ADDED THAT TWO GOVERNMENT AGENTS HAD ALSO VISITED PARTY CHAIRMAN YU CHIN-SAN, WHO IS RESTING AT HOME FOLLOWING JANUARY 8 APPENDECTOMY, TO COMPLAIN ABOUT NDP NEWSPAPER. YU REPORTEDLY FIRMLY REJECTED THEIR COMPLAINTS. SOURCE CLAIMED THAT ALTHOUGH NEWSPAPER BLAMED GOVERNMENT FOR ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND FOR REFUSING TO OPEN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, IT DID NOT DIRECTLY CRITICIZE YUSHIN CONSTITUTION OR EMERGENCY MEASURES.

2. FIVE MEMBERS OF HAPDONG NEWS AGENCY INCLUDING MANAGING EDITOR, FOREIGN NEWS CHIEF, EDITORS FOR REUTER AND ASSOCIATED PRESS, AND ONE REPORTER WERE QUESTIONED BY KCIA DURING FEBRUARY 14 AND 15 OVER PUBLICATION OF A NEWS ITEM ABOUT NORTH KOREA. ITEM, FROM REUTER IN HONG KONG AND OP IN TOKYO, REPORTED THAT NORTH KOREAN LABOR PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE WAS CONSIDERING ABOLISHING TAXES AND REDUCING CON-

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SUMER PRICES. STORY APPEARED IN ALL VERNACULAR DAILIES

EXCEPT SINA ILBO. ACCORDING TO HAPDONG SOURCE, GOVERNMENT
CONSIDERED PUNISHING HAPDONG MEMBERS AND EDITORS OF NEWSPAPERS
WHICH CARRIED ITEM, BUT REFRAINED IN VIEW OF ATTENTION THIS
WOULD DRAW TO GOVERNMENT'S SENSITIVITY OVER TAXES AND PRICES.

3. USIS HAS REPORT FROM MINDEF PRESS CORPS THAT EMERGENCY
COURT-MARTIAL SESSIONS ARE SCHEDULED THIS WEEK FOR SEOUL
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS, ONE STUDENT OF
SONGGYUNKWAN UNIVERSITY WHOSE ARREST NOT PREVIOUSLY REPORTED,
AND ONE REMAINING OUT OF ELEVEN ARRESTED CHRISTIAN ACTIVISTS.
(THUS FAR, FOUR WERE RELEASED AND SIX WERE SENTENCED.)
HABIB

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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